

News from the FPPC

California Fair Political Practices Commission
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For Immediate Release: April 12, 2007

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FPPC Enforcement Decisions: April 12, 2007

The following are enforcement decisions approved by the Fair Political Practices Commission at its regular monthly meeting held in Sacramento on Thursday, April 12, 2007. Decisions are divided by category and include a brief summary of each case and the total amount of any administrative fine or fines in each case.

Additional information on each of the enforcement cases below can be found in the April agenda on the FPPC website at www.fppc.ca.gov. FPPC agendas are distributed and posted on the agency website 10 days prior to each monthly meeting.

The web version of the agenda includes links to the stipulations agreed to by the commission and by the individuals and organizations subject to the fines, or the default decisions proposed to the commission. Exhibits in support of the stipulations and proposed default decisions are also available on the website. If you are unable to access the FPPC website, or need further assistance, please call the FPPC communications office at (916) 322-7761.

Campaign Reporting Violations

The Political Reform Act requires any person or combination of persons who, in a calendar year, receives contributions of \$1,000 or more; makes independent expenditures of \$1,000 or more; or makes contributions of \$10,000 or more, to file detailed reports.

The following failed to file on time or include all of the required information on their report(s):

Maribel De La Torre was a successful candidate for the San Fernando City Council in the March 6, 2001, election and was reelected on March 8, 2005. Families for Maribel De La Torre was De La Torre's controlled committee and Steven Veres and Oscar E. Jimenez served as the committee's treasurers. De La Torre, her committee, Oscar E. Jimenez and Steven Veres failed to timely file semi-annual campaign statements. De La Torre, her committee and Steven Veres also failed to disclose required contributor information in a semi-annual campaign statement. **Maribel De La Torre**, her committee, **Oscar E. Jimenez** and **Steven Veres** paid a fine of **\$6,000**.

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Statements of Economic Interests

California law requires elected officials, certain board members and governmental employees, and consultants employed by governmental entities to fill out Statements of Economic Interests (SEIs or Form 700s). SEIs serve a dual purpose: they make a filer aware of personal economic interests relative to a governmental decision, and they are an important disclosure document for the public and media.

The following individuals failed to file their Statement of Economic Interests forms on time:

- **David Benitez**, a City of Pomona Community Life Commissioner, paid a **\$250** fine for failing to timely file his assuming office SEI.
- **Celia Ruiz**, a consultant for the Transbay Joint Powers Agency, paid a **\$100** fine for failing to timely file her 2005 annual SEI.
- **Eric Gores**, Developmental Disabilities Council Member, paid a **\$100** fine for failing to timely file his assuming office SEI.
- **Diana Verdugo**, Speech-Language Pathology & Audiology Board Member, paid a **\$100** fine for failing to timely file her 2005 annual SEI.
- **Carlos Baker**, a retired judge who served on assignment for 30 days or more in 2005, paid a **\$100** fine for failing to timely file a 2005 annual SEI.

Major Donor

A major donor is a person or entity who makes contributions totaling \$10,000 or more in a calendar year and is required to file campaign reports detailing how much was contributed and to whom.

The following failed to file major donor reports as required by law:

- **Kindred Healthcare Operations Inc** of Louisville, Kentucky, paid a **\$1,600** fine for failing to timely file semi-annual campaign statements disclosing contributions totaling \$10,600 in 2004, \$11,200 in 2005 and \$10,750 in 2006.

Late Contribution

When contributions of \$1,000 or more are made or received during the final days of an election—the time between the last campaign report required to be filed and the end of the election—late contribution reports must be filed within 24 hours of making the “late” contribution.

The following failed to file late contribution reports as required by the Political Reform Act:

- **Albert Armijo for Pico Rivera City Council**, located in Pico Rivera, paid a **\$980.42** fine for failing to timely disclose late contributions totaling \$6,536.14.
- **Timothy K. Bliss** of Santa Barbara, paid a **\$3,500** fine for failing to timely disclose a late contribution totaling \$50,000.
- **Charles T. Munger** of Los Angeles, paid a **\$1,500** fine for failing to timely disclose a late contribution totaling \$10,000.

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